

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School – Green



Welcome back to school. We hope you had a very happy Christmas and New Year and that the children are ready for another term in Green Class. We ended the autumn term in style with a wonderful Christmas performance, a trip to the theatre and a pantomime visit to school. This term, we begin a more formal approach to learning. The children no longer have Play and Explore time but do still continue to access our resources once their work is complete and they will also have an additional outdoor playtime during the morning. The children are more than ready for this next step in their learning journey, and I know I will continue to feel very proud of them. We have two exciting topics this half term – Let's Perform and Beliefs.

### English

We start our Let's Perform topic with some exciting new books from Mrs Moss - 'That's Not My Hat' and 'I Want My Hat Back'. We will be working hard to develop our understanding of the language used in the story and on our punctuation and grammar. As in all our English learning, we have a lesson sequence which takes the form of 1. Reading and Retelling, 2. Comprehension, 3. Grammar, spelling and punctuation and 4. Planning, writing, checking and editing our story. There will be lots of writing opportunities throughout the sequence.



### Topic

During our Let's Perform topic, we have a focus on Art and Science. In Art, we will be learning about different artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Long and Patrick Heron and making our own collages. In Science, we will be learning about different materials and how these materials can be used for specific purposes (eg; why can't an umbrella be made from paper?).

In PE, we will be learning different gymnastic skills.

Computing and PSHE continue weekly.



### Phonics and reading

In phonics this term, children will be continuing to learn that sounds we already know can be made by different graphemes. Our work will help in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check which will take place in June. All children will be 'tested' on their ability to sound talk and blend 40 words. Whilst we don't use the language of 'test' with children, it is really important that children practise the skill of accurate sound talking and blending at home and at school.

Children will continue to read to an adult 3 times a week to practice taught skills and these books are then shared at home the following week. Children also have an additional decodable book and a reading for pleasure library book which can be changed on a regular basis. **Please remember to bring in reading folders on a Wednesday, so we can collect the Little Wandle books to change on Friday. It is important that these come into school on Wednesday so other children can take these books home the following week.**



### Homework

A big thank you for all the super effort you are putting in to helping children with their homework. Please remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so we can celebrate their successes. I will then return their books on a Friday, ready for the weekend. I want to remind you that homework is optional, and **activities are designed to help you see the type of learning taking place within the class.** Reading, as always, remains the best possible homework you can do with children multiple times a week as it has a significant impact on their progress and our Little Wandle books are essential for children to develop reading fluency at the correct level.



### Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of numbers within 100. This includes counting, reading and writing numbers, identifying, representing and estimating numbers, comparing numbers. We will also be learning about different measurements where we will compare, estimate, calculate and measure different heights and lengths.

Mental starters to lessons happen daily and we will work on instant recall of number bonds to 20, recognize odd and even numbers and find small differences between numbers. As well as this, we start every maths lesson with counting practice. Please help children count backwards as well as forwards. As always, there will be lots of singing in our lessons!



### Bits and bobs

Snacks – Please send children to school with one healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop (50p). Please also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

Enrichment clubs – The groups have changed for the Spring term. Forest days are: **Group 1 on a Tuesday. Group 2 on a Friday. The new groups were released via Parent App on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.** On forest school days, children can come into school in joggers / leggings. Please keep their school tops on, with something warm underneath.

PE – Children still have PE lessons on a Tuesday afternoon. Please name all of the children's PE uniform and shoes. It is impossible to relocate lost uniform if it is not named. Make sure long hair is tied up and children have socks in their PE bags if they wear tights.

Dressing for the weather – As the weather is so interchangeable at this time of year, please send the children into school with a waterproof coat as we aim to go outside in all weathers. Send children in with **named** hats, gloves and scarves when the weather is especially cold.



Thank you all for your continuing support. If you wish to speak to us about anything, please do contact the office by telephone or email [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) or catch us at the end of the day for an informal chat.

**Best wishes, Miss Smith and Mrs Thompson.**